

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-9 and 16-17 remain pending in the present application.

By way of summary, the Office Action presented the following issues: the Office Action objected to Claims 9 and 16 as depending from a subsequent claim; Claims 1-4, 8, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 1-2 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2001/0056404 to Kuriya et al. (hereinafter "Kuriya") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2002/0157104 to Nakada et al. (hereinafter "Nakada"), U.S. Patent No. 6,510,236 to Crane et al. (hereinafter "Crane"), and U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2002/0194474 to Natsuno et al. (hereinafter "Natsuno"); Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kuriya in view of Nakada, Crane, Natsuno, and U.S. Patent No. 6,128,661 to Flanagan et al. (hereinafter "Flanagan"); Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kuriya in view of Nakada, Crane, Natsuno, Flanagan, and U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2003/0134615 to Takeuchi (hereinafter "Takeuchi"); Claims 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kuriya in view of Nakada, Crane, Natsuno, and Int'l Patent Application Publ'n No. WO 03/028283 to Halén et al. (hereinafter "Halén"); and Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kuriya in view of Nakada, Crane, Natsuno, Halén, Takeuchi, and U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2003/0078723 to Kunigita (hereinafter "Kunigita").

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Applicants and Applicants' representative wish to thank Primary Examiner Pyzocha and Examiner Vu for the courtesy of the personal interview granted on February 3, 2011. During the interview, the subject matter of Claims 1 and 8 were discussed. Primary

Examiner Pyzocha suggested that the rejection of Claim 8 would be reviewed. Further, it was agreed that the claim objections and rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, would be withdrawn. Comments similar to those presented during the interview are included herein.

CLAIM OBJECTION

The Office Action objected to Claims 9 and 16 as depending from a subsequent claim. Attention is respectfully directed to MPEP § 608.01(n) I F, which states, “in situations where a claim refers to a numerically following claim and the dependency is clear . . . , all claims should be examined on the merits and no objection as to form need be made.” Here, Claims 9 and 16 both clearly depend from Claim 17 as acknowledged at page 2 of the Office Action. In view of the plain language of the MPEP, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection to Claims 9 and 16.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-4, 8, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. In this regard, the Office Action indicated Claims 1 and 3 were found indefinite “because the claims recite ‘means for’ language[] and there is no structure disclosed in the specification.”¹

The subject matter of Claims 1 and 3 finds support at least in Figures 6 and 17 and their accompanying text in the specification. In particular, Figure 6 shows a communications interface 35f, a RAM 35b, an HDD 35c, and a CPU 35a. Figure 17 shows a network interface 1053, an authentication-data storage unit 1057, a client database unit 1054, and a

¹ Office Action at 3.

control unit 1050. The subject matter of Claims 1 and 3 corresponds to at least those structures and their equivalents.

The subject matter of Claim 3 finds further support in Figures 4 and 15 and their accompanying text in the specification. Figure 4 shows a network interface, a ROM, a RAM, an HDD, and a CPU. Figure 15 shows a network interface 1033, an authentication-information storage unit 1038, and a control unit 1023. The subject matter of Claim 3 corresponds to at least those structures and their equivalents.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kuriya in view of Nakada, Crane, and Natsuno. Because the Office Action failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to the features of independent Claims 1 and 5-7, Applicants respectfully traverse that rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to an information-processing apparatus including, in part,

receiving means for receiving, in a ticket request, service ID data designating a service to be provided, together with user ID data and apparatus ID data, from an external apparatus, and for receiving a cancellation request including the user ID data and the apparatus ID data from the external apparatus;

storage means for storing the user ID data and the service ID data, in an association with the apparatus ID data, which identifies the external apparatus and which has been registered;

deleting means for deleting, from the storage means, the apparatus ID data after deleting, from the storage means, the service ID data, when the receiving means receives, from the external apparatus, the cancellation request . . . , and for producing a result of an authentication based on the user ID data and the apparatus ID data upon a reception of the ticket request; and

transmitting means for transmitting a ticket to the
external apparatus . . . , based on the result of the authentication
. . . .

Kuriya, Nakada, Crane, and Natsuno fail to disclose or suggests those features.

Kuriya concerns a manager server that receives a check-in request including a user ID and a content ID of a content.² After receiving the check-in request, the Kuriya server updates usage conditions of the content.³ The Kuriya server then deletes a device ID corresponding to the content ID.⁴

That is, Kuriya merely describes deleting a device ID after receiving a user ID and a content ID. The Office Action acknowledged, “Kuriya does not disclose deleting means for deleting . . . service ID data before deleting the apparatus ID, when the receiving means receives . . . the cancellation request”⁵

Further, during the interview, Examiner Vu noted Kuriya also describes that, “When a content check-in request comes . . . , the content management program 291 increments by 1 the permitted check-out count . . . on the basis of the user ID, the content ID and device ID attached to the request and deletes the device ID of the device”⁶ That is, Kuriya merely describes deleting a device ID when a content check-in request including the device ID comes. Kuriya does not disclose or suggest deleting service ID data before deleting the device ID.

Turning to Nakada, that reference describes transmitting unassigned contents for deleting contents.⁷ The Nakada unassigned contents denote dummy contents in which only

² Kuriya, paras. [0320]-[0321].

³ Id., para. [0321].

⁴ Id., para. [0324].

⁵ Office Action at 5.

⁶ Kuriya, para. [0396].

⁷ Nakada, para. [0119].

the ID of the contents to be deleted is written.⁸ According to Nakada, “On receipt of the unassigned contents, the receiving apparatus deletes the contents having the ID.”⁹

That is, Nakada merely describes a transmission of *only* the ID of the contents to be deleted. Nakada does not disclose or suggest a transmission including user ID data *and* apparatus ID data.

Nakada does not disclose or suggest “deleting means for deleting . . . , when the receiving means receives . . . the cancellation request,” the “cancellation request including the user ID data and the apparatus ID data,” as recited in Claim 1.

Further, Nakada describes deleting the contents having the ID but does not disclose or suggest deleting the ID itself. Similarly, although Nakada describes deleting the contents, Nakada performs that deletion on receipt of the ID of the contents, and not on the receipt of the contents themselves. Nakada does not disclose or suggest a deletion of data received.

Nakada does not disclose or suggest “deleting means for deleting . . . apparatus ID data . . . , when the receiving means receives . . . the cancellation request” the “cancellation request including . . . the apparatus ID data,” as recited in Claim 1.

In addition, the cited portion of Nakada merely describes a single deletion. Nakada does not disclose or suggest “deleting means for deleting . . . apparatus ID data after deleting . . . service ID data,” as recited in Claim 1.

Further, the cited portion of Nakada explains that “the receiving apparatus 1 cannot . . . delete the contents 2.”¹⁰ The Office cannot properly rely on that portion of Nakada as disclosing any sort of deletion.

Additionally, during the interview, Examiner Vu suggested it would be inherent to Nakada that deleting the contents would disclose deleting the contents ID. It was noted that the contents and the contents ID are different structures. Therefore, Applicants first request

⁸ Id.

⁹ Id.

¹⁰ Id.

that the Office provide evidence that deleting the contents would *necessarily* flow from Nakada.¹¹ Alternatively, should the Office wish to assert it would have been obvious to modify the Nakada contents deletion to *also* delete the contents ID, Applicants respectfully request evidence demonstrating how that modification would have been obvious.

The Office Action did not rely on Crane or Natsuno for “deleting means for deleting,” as recited in Claim 1.¹² It is respectfully submitted Crane and Natusno fail to remedy the above-noted deficiencies in Nakada.

Thus, Kuriya, Nakada, Crane, and Natsuno, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest “deleting means for deleting . . . apparatus ID data after deleting . . . service ID data, when the receiving means receives . . . the cancellation request,” the “cancellation request including the user ID data and the apparatus ID data,” as recited in Claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over any proper combination of Kuriya, Nakada, Crane, and Natsuno.

For at least analogous reasons, it is submitted independent Claims 5-7 patentably distinguish over any proper combination of Kuriya, Nakada, Crane, and Natsuno.

It is further submitted Halén, Takeuchi, and Kunigita fail to remedy the above-noted deficiencies in Claim 1. Accordingly, it is submitted the rejections of dependent Claims 9 and 16-17 are moot.

Independent Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Kuriya, Nakada, Crane, Natsuno, and Flanagin. The Office Action did not rely on Flanagin as disclosing the deleting means of the recited information-processing apparatus.¹³ It is respectfully submitted Flanagin does not disclose or suggest “an information-processing

¹¹ MPEP § 2112 IV.

¹² Office Action at 6-7.

¹³ Office Action at 16.

apparatus having . . . deleting means for deleting . . . apparatus ID data after deleting . . . service ID data, when the receiving means receives . . . the cancellation request,” the “cancellation request including the user ID data and the apparatus ID data,” as recited in Claim 3.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is submitted independent Claim 3 (and associated dependent Claim 4) patentably distinguishes over any proper combination of Kuriya, Nakada, Crane, Natsuno, and Flanagin.

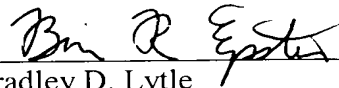
Further, it is submitted that Takeuchi fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies in Kuriya, Nakada, Crane, Natsuno, and Flanagin with regard to independent Claim 3. Accordingly, it is submitted the rejection of dependent Claim 4 is moot.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is patentably distinguished over the applied references. The application is therefore in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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